

Appl. No. 09/865,394  
Response to Office Action dated March 22, 2004  
Docket No. 6169-200

IBM Docket No.: BOC9-2000-0064

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action of March 22, 2004 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Applicants amendment to the specification was not accepted, as Applicants incorrectly specified the location of the paragraph to be replaced. The amended paragraph is now correctly specified as replacing the first full paragraph on page 3.

In paragraph 3, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, and 12-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,046,742 to Chari (Chari).

In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 6, 7, and 10 to clarify that each node is associated with a display element displayable within a display map, as shown in FIG. 5 items 520, 525, 530, and 535. Additional support can be found in FIG. 2 items 62, 64, 66, 82, 84, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 122, 124, 126, 128, and 130 as well as at page 14, line 16 to page 15, line 12. Applicants have also amended claims 1, 4, 6, 7, and 10 to clarify that the display map can simultaneously display the display elements in a planar fashion. By presenting the display elements in a planar fashion, a display map can visually illustrate the interconnections among network components, as shown in FIG. 2, item 10 and as stated at page 11, line 20 to page 12, line 1.

Applicants have further amended claim 1, 7, 14, 16, and 19 to clarify that each node can have multiple attributes that are selectively presentable within the display element, as shown at page 12, lines 6-16 and as shown in FIG. 2 items 15 and 20. Further, Applicants have clarified that the display element in the display map can reflect updated values, as stated at page 17, lines 11-12, at page 18, lines 3-8, and at page 18, lines 19-21.

Applicants have amended claims 2 and 8 to clarify that the indicator computed via the updated value can be displayed within the display element. For example, the icons of FIG. 2 that can represent display elements can change color and/or flash responsive to updated values, as shown at page 17, lines 11-12, at page 18, lines 3-8, and at page 18, lines 19-21.

Applicants have also added claim 20 that indicates that a display map parameter can be indicated that causes the attributes displayed for nodes within the display map to change in

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accordance with the display map parameter. Support for this claim can be found at page 12, lines 6-16. Additional support can be found in FIG. 2 items 10, 15, and 20 as well as at page 16, line 19 to page 17, line 7. As all claim amendments are fully supported within the specification, no new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Prior to addressing the rejections on the art, a brief review of the Applicants' invention is in order. The Applicants' claimed and disclosed subject matter teaches a system, a method, and an apparatus for displaying node-based information on a display map. Each node can have multiple attributes, where attribute values can be computed from data received from a plurality of distributed network components gathered using software agents. Each node can be associated with a display element presented within the display map in a planar fashion. The node can receive intermittently receive updates from the various components and responsively recalculate attribute values. The changes to the attribute values can cause the node to update the display element appearing within the display map. Notably, attributes to be displayed upon a particular display map can be established by the user viewing the display map. Accordingly, different users having different display maps for the same nodes can customize data presentation to suit user preferences.

Turning specifically to the rejections on the art, in paragraph 3, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, and 12-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chari. Chari discloses a display system including a navigation tree that decomposes network components in a hierarchical fashion. A detail pane is provided to the right of the navigation tree. The detail pane displays the hierarchical layer one below a selection made within the navigation tree, as shown in FIGS. 14-39 of Chari.

Referring to claims 1, 4, 6, 7, and 10, Chari discloses a system where nodes are displayed in a hierarchical fashion. In contrast, Applicants specifically claim that display elements are to be presented in a planar fashion. Planar displays can be highly beneficial to network administrators, permitting administrators to quickly recognize network problems in a functionally intuitive manner. For example, the planar arrangement in FIG. 2, item 10 illustrates the relative communication relationships between selected components in a system. Different attributes can be selected for the display map that can cause different nodal metrics to be displayed, as shown in FIG. 2, item 20. Chari provides no teachings that would allow display

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elements to be simultaneously displayed within a display map in a planar fashion. Accordingly, Chari does not anticipate the Applicants' invention and the § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn, which action is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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